



The Greyfriars Gazette



NEWSLETTER No. 18

CHRISTMAS 1975

Issued to all full Subscribers to the Greyfriars Press programme
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Dear Friars,

No doubt you will find it unusual to receive our Gazette-Newsletter, Spring catalogue and new Bond by separate post, instead of enclosed with the appropriate Greyfriars Press volume and no doubt you were even more surprised to receive your November and December volumes at the turn of last month. But, as explained in our note of November 1 which accompanied the November and December titles, the new swingeing postal charges has obliged us to reorganize our despatch system.



POSTAL CHARGES

P POSTAGE PAID LONDON S.E. SERIAL NO 101

You will all be aware of the punitive increases in postal rates over the past year, and will also be aware that to date we have borne this almost crippling levy ourselves and not passed it on to our customers. In fact we have been subsidising postage and despatch for a long time.

But now, our contract postage-paid service has been increased yet again, to 54 pence per single volume parcel and this of course does not include packing and handling.

Again, we will subsidise postage and charge only 50p per parcel (all in) to our subscribers. Moreover, to help offset this rise we will be prepared to send up to four books in one parcel for the same price.

Accordingly, it behoves all those ordering back numbers to order two or three titles at a time rather than buying singly. Thus you can save as much as £1 (one pound) per order.

(We regret this "bulk order" offer cannot include our overseas (non-UK) customers, for whom a standard rate of 35p per volume will apply.)



FROM

HOWARD BAKER PRESS LIMITED
27a Arterberry Road, Wimbledon London, S.W.20
incorporating THE GREYFRIARS PRESS publishers



For similar reasons we will endeavour to forge ahead of schedule with our Spring programme and mail you your next books in pairs rather than singly. Thus, in January, you should receive both the January and February titles; in March, your March and April titles, and so on.

GREYFRIARS BOOK CLUB

Newcomers to the Book Club have asked us the precise publishing order of Club volumes to date. The position is as follows: four titles have been published

'Worst Boy at Greyfriars' (First Wharton Rebel Series)	Nos 879 to 888	May
'Loder for Captain'	Nos 923 to 931	July
'Making of Harry Wharton' (First ten Magnets of 1908)	Nos 1 to 10	Sept
'Harry Wharton & Co in India'	Nos 960 to 970	Nov

Stocks of all these titles are still available. We plan to publish the first 15 Gems of 1907 (TOM MERRY'S SCHOOLDAYS) in January 1976.

CONTACTS

John K Bartholomew of 77 Edington Street, North Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia would like to hear from fellow readers living in his vicinity.

WORLD OF FRANK RICHARDS

Congratulatory messages anent our biography of Charles Hamilton continue to come in. John Brooke writes: "as a professional author myself I would like to say how much I enjoyed WORLD OF FRANK RICHARDS. Please convey my congratulations to all concerned". Leslie Charteris (of Saint fame) comments, "another classic achievement from the team of Lofts, Adley & Co".



WHAT ABOUT THE SUBS, THEN !

"The long list of Hamilton titles published by you is much appreciated by devotees such as myself. But what of the so-called substitute writers, whose names have been so maligned by some readers, and even by Charles Hamilton himself, who was so kind and gentle in other ways?

These writers were only doing their job at a time when work was difficult to find. There was little opportunity for them to write schoolboy fiction when the field was largely monopolised by Hamilton, excellent though he was. As readers at the time, I am sure that we were

unaware of 'substitutes', although no doubt regarded some of the stories as sub-standard; but then Frank Richards himself was not always at the top of his form.

So, Mr Publisher, what about a volume devoted entirely to the poor 'substitutes'? Tell us who they were and let us judge for ourselves!"

G Bealus, Winchmore Hill,
London



THE MEANING OF FACSIMILES

We sometimes have cause to reply to readers who complain of faint printing on some pages of Greyfriars Press volumes. Of course, most of our readers appreciate the reasons for this, and bear it stoically. But for new readers, or for those unfamiliar with the problems of photolithography, we should explain that our printers can only reproduce what is visible on the original text from which our facsimiles are produced. If the original page of the particular issue was under-inked, and rendered only a faint impression on the paper, then our reproduction must be likewise. After all, that is what facsimiles are about.



с рождеством!

Our two charming lady Friars (should it be Sisters?) Mary Cadogan and Patricia Craig, have written what promises to be a delight of a book, due for publication by Gollancz in February, 1976. It surveys all girls' fiction from Little Women to Pollyanna, from Katy to Marjorie Hazeldene of Cliff House. The period covers 1839 to 1975. The worlds of Angela Brazil and Hilda Richards -- they are all there and many, many more besides. We are sure that a considerable number of our readers will want to study this fascinating history of the girls' fiction genre. A review will appear in the Gazette in early new year.

YOU'RE A BRICK, ANGELA!
by Mary Cadogan and Patricia Craig



LEND YOUR SUPPORT

There have already been signs of support for Friar Geoffrey Wilde's appeal for expansion of interests, to include minority requirements such as Gem, Nelson Lee, Sexton Blake &c.

Friar Brooke of Chingford, London writes:

"I was interested to read in the autumn issue of the Greyfriars Gazette the letter from Geoffrey Wilde. There is good sense in his suggestion. When I signed my Pledge Form for the Greyfriars Book Club, I did not undertake to buy the first fifteen Gems. But I will now do so. Please add it to my Pledge Form and invoice when the book is due."

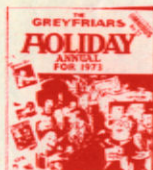
Friar Brendan Johnston of Wirral, Merseyside:
 "I fully agree with Geoffrey Wilde (Greyfriars Gazette
 No 17) and will go along with any suggestion to join a
 group such as he envisages."

"Regarding Geoffrey Wilde's letter in the Greyfriars
 Gazette, I am amenable to anything which will increase my
 range of Old Boys Books. The Magnet, alas, ended publica-
 tion before I had quite reached reading age. As a newcomer
 to this type of literature, the more wide-spread the net,
 the happier I am. This is not knocking the Magnet! It is
 the best without a doubt! However, I would like to enlarge
 my acquaintance a little -- such as more Gems & Union Jacks.

Whatever your decision may be, keep up the good
 work and keep 'em coming!"

J. Hafok, Headingley, Leeds

While still on the subject of minority interests,
 we regret to say there has been insufficient support for
 Mr Berg's suggestion of a complete run in Book Club form of
 the UNION JACK Confederation Series. Accordingly, this
 project must be kept in abeyance for the time being.



THAT CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

For Friars wishing to wallow deeply in that old-time
 Christmas spirit and who find this year's Polpelly series
 insufficient for such a worthy purpose we suggest another
 reading of some of those famous Yuletide series already
 published in our programme.

CAROL OF 5 SONGS - 4 PAGES



Courtfield Cracksmen	Volume 5
Mystery of Wharton Lodge	Volume 8
My Lord Bunter	Volume 14
Billy Bunter's Christmas	Volume 22
Mystery of the Moat House	Volume 29
Mystery of the Silver Cigarette Case	GHA '73
Ghost of Mauleverer Towers	GHA '74
D'Arcy and the Painted Room	GHA '76



All excellent literature for Christmas-tide, redolent
 of happy days and cosy evenings by the fire, surely worth
 reading again and again. We think our readers will agree
 they have been well served with a superabundance of seasonal
 Christmas stories during the comparatively short life of
 the Greyfriars Press.

to Χριστούγεννα!

It only remains to wish all our readers,
 Friars, Sisters, friends and critics (yes, we
 have a few) a very happy Christmas and a bright
 and prosperous New Year.

From your venerable abbot, editor and
 publisher.

